

## TO THE INHABITANTS

### OCCUPYING THE FRONTIER OF THE INDIAN COUNTRY.

I deem it advisable to adopt this public mode of informing you that I have visited this region of country, under orders from the Executive, for the purpose of mustering into the service a corps of mounted volunteers for the defence of the frontier. At the time I left Tallahassee, Governor MOSELEY had only learned of the first outrage committed by the Indians. His arrangements were based upon the necessities then appearing. Since that time the further intelligence from the Hillsborough district has been transmitted to him. My object in addressing you is to say that I am now engaged in mustering a corps of one hundred mounted men, who will make their rendezvous at Lake Monroe: and that another corps of mounted men were to have left Tallahassee on yesterday. These two corps will adopt for their base, a line extending between New Smyrna and Tampa. I feel warranted to say that the Governor is fully impressed with the calamitous circumstances of the country, and that such additional force will be promptly added by him as may be requisite for the complete protection of the citizens of the State occupying the advanced and exposed line of frontier settlements. I therefore respectfully recommend to my fellow citizens to maintain their ground with firmness and confidence, and with a full assurance that all necessary support will be speedily afforded by the Executive of the State---until the intervention of the Federal Government shall become available.

To prevent the evil effect of the mistaken reports I understand to have been circulated as to the result of the military expedition to Pease Creek, I am allowed to give the following statement as derived from an official and authentic source, to wit:

The expedition which was commanded by Lt. GARLAND, returned on the 25th of this month. He saw no Indians on the route.

The trading house with its out buildings were found burnt and a small bridge near by, partially destroyed. The bones of PAYNE and WHEEDEN were collected and buried. From the indications there is room for hope that the outrage was committed by a party having plunder for their object.

WHEEDEN's camp about five miles off, was left undisturbed, with the exception of a small sum of money which was taken.

Foot prints of the Indians were seen both in going and returning, and the Indians were doubtless aware of the movement of the troops. Had they been in force and disposed to violence, they might have attacked the expedition to great advantage.

G. W. HUTCHINS, Aid de Camp to His Excellency  
W. D. MOSELEY, Governor of Florida.

St. Augustine, July 31, 1849.